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Mosquito destruction and sanitary inspection at Nuevo Laredo.

MEXICO CITY, May 2, 1904.

DR. WALTER WYMAN,

*President of the Committee of the American Republics,
Washington.*

MY DEAR DOCTOR: Under date of the 28th ultimo the sanitary agent in Laredo wired me as follows:

The form in which we are carrying out the destruction of the larvæ is subject to the instructions of your board, and is as follows: A visit is made by special commissioners to all the houses in the city with strict instructions to inspect all the water deposits and destroy all those which are not indispensably required for domestic purposes, and to apply oil to the others, ordering them to be closed, so as to prevent the mosquitoes from going in and out. For the ponds and water reservoirs in streets and public places, we likewise use oil in all those that have not been filled up. Not a single day have we neglected to work for the desired end, and by this date we have visited all the houses in the city. I am at present continuing the house-to-house inspection, so as to overlook and demand the fulfillment of the instructions.

This work has been carried out up to the present date with visits to 479 houses. The domiciliary visits in order to observe any case suspected of yellow fever have been placed under the charge of 20 inspectors, each in charge of a block, and under the supervision of 4 physicians who are in the city. Up to the present date no case has been observed that could be suspected of being yellow fever.

I have the pleasure of transcribing the above to you in connection with your wire of the 27th ultimo, and I would also inform you that, notwithstanding the already good organization of the sanitary service in Laredo, I have now reenforced it with seven more employees, and have ordered a scrupulous inspection to be made of the passengers arriving by railroad so as to prevent the passage into American territory, not only of persons suffering from yellow fever or smallpox, but of all who are even suspected of suffering from such diseases.

With best regards, I remain, yours, very sincerely,

E. LICEAGA.

Increased service for antimosquito work along lines of travel.

LAREDO, TEX., May 3, 1904.

SIR: I have the honor to state that a separate force for demonstrating antimosquito work along the line of the Texas-Mexican Railroad (Laredo to Corpus Christi) should be organized, to begin work at once, rather than to wait upon that now at work under Doctor Cock along the line of the International and Great Northern Railroad to complete that line.

Doctor Cock reported stegomyia prevalent in all of the towns inspected by him along the Texas-Mexican Railway, so that unless measures are taken at once looking to their destruction this entire territory will become highly infectible, needing only the introduction of a case to start the infection.

There is constant communication by stage and private conveyance between Hebbronville and Rio Grande City, and between the latter place and points in Mexico, even as far south as Linares, and it is at least possible that fever may be introduced by this route.

Now that the rigid State quarantine at Laredo, Eagle Pass, and El Paso is in force, the route via Rio Grande City and Hebbronville is apt to become decidedly more popular, and it may be advisable to station a service representative at Rio Grande City on information duty and to act as quarantine officer.